


The Book Reviews of Chester Cuthbert

Authors' surnames beginning with

Bu



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Buchan, John

The Gates of the Morning; London, Hodder and Stoughton Ltd
Maps; (November, 1929 reprint) 405p.

This is the story of an imaginary war in South America and is conceived on a grand scale.

The prologue by Sir Richard Hannay introduces the story of his friends, two Englishmen and two girls and the American John Blenkiron. They fear that a mining industrialist is aiming to be master of the Republic of Olifa by drugging his workers and influencing the politicians, ultimately controlling the continent.

By disguise and intrigue they succeed in kidnaping Castor the industrialist and persuading him to lead them while they keep him captive. His genius enables him to recognize the error of his previous plans, and awaken him to the prospect of a nobler outlook. He falls in love with the young wife of one of the young Englishmen, experiencing the emotion for the first time, and this helps his altruistic vision and adds humanity to his nature.

Details of the war are not directly narrated, but supplied through conversations between the leaders. Adventures of the characters are detailed directly to give the story action and romance.

Like Merritt's Seven Footprints to Satan, the only outright fantasy element is the drug and its effects; the imaginary nature of the war, which is conducted along the lines of military science, being the overall fantasy.

Chester D. Cuthbert
December 31, 1995

3246 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3K 0Y9
(204) 831-7777

CELEBRATING
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
1962-1987
LE PREMIER QUART DE SIÈCLE
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FirstCity Trust

Buchan, John

The Dancing Floor; London, Hodder and Stoughton Limited;
(October, 1926 reprint); Map 311p

Although this title was listed by Bleiler, I was doubtful of its qualifying as fantasy, so I have just finished reading it.

It treats of the peasants of Plakos as superstitious, but it accepts the recurrent dreams of the hero as foretelling the future and appears to accept the idea of at least partial predestination. The heroine's father is portrayed as like Gilles de Rais, and the horror of the probable fate of his daughter resulting from this is the theme of the novel.

This book was one of the most popular written by Buchan, and is a good story. It does qualify as fantasy, though it is not primarily fantastic.

Chester D. Cuthbert
December 23, 1995

Note: Paperback (#488), (1961)

254p.

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FirstCity Trust

Buchan, John

C52

Lake of Gold; Toronto, The Musson Book Company Ltd.,
1941; Illustrated by G. Levenson; 190pp.

Cornish Library card says: "Same as Long Traverse".
This is correct, but differences are noted: see "The Long
Traverse".

The Canadian edition has a short foreword by Susan
Tweedsmuir which does not appear in the English edition.

Buchan, John

The Long Traverse; London, Hodder and Stoughton Limited
(September, 1941); Illustrated by J. Morton Sale; 254pp

(Published in Canada as "~~The~~ Lake of Gold")

The English edition has an Epilogue, probably written by Susan Tweedsmuir, summarizing unfinished material found among Buchan's papers, which does not appear in the Canadian edition. The Canadian edition has a short foreword which does not appear in the English edition.

The Magic Walking-Stick; with illustrations by Arthur E. Becher; New York, The Junior Literary Guild and Houghton Mifflin Company, 1932 176p.

with illustrations by Vernon L. Soper; and Stories from the Arabian Nights, selected and edited and arranged for young people by Frances Jenkins Olcott, with illustrations by Monroe S. Orr; London, Associated Newspapers, Ltd., n.d. 314p.

with different illustrations, London, The Bodley Head, (1932, 1953) 159p.

Like Lake of Gold, this is an episodic juvenile based on the magic teleportation powers of a walking-stick bought from an old man for a farthing. The adventures range from the Arabian desert, to the elephants' graveyard, to a mythical kingdom whose boy king is threatened with kidnapping, and the rural Scottish characters, landlords and peasants, known to the boy's aristocratic family.

Although interesting and well-written, I do not think the book is worth re-reading. I did not read the Arabian Nights stories in this version, having read Lane's translation of them years ago. These are contained only in the color-illustrated second book listed above, and not in the other editions of the title story.

Buchanan, Joseph Rodes, (M.D.)

Manual of Psychometry: The Dawn of a New Civilization;
Fourth Edition; Boston, Frank H. Hodges, 1893 (Author, 1885)
Index; Frontispiece (Cornelia H. Buchanan) Pagination below.

This volume is comprised of three parts independently paginated.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Introductory and historical | 212p. |
| 2. Uses and Applications | 194p. |
| 3. The New Philosophy and Religion; and Appendix | 129p. |

This man was not a crackpot. Yet he is not mentioned in the two volumes of Myers, the two volumes of Holt's On the Cosmic Relations, Heysinger's Spirit and Matter Before the Bar of Modern Science, or Mitchell's Psychic Exploration. Richet, on pages 177 and 178 of Thirty Years of Psychical Research, dismisses him because the faculty has been more thoroughly investigated since his time, but appears confused in naming Elizabeth Denton as Mrs. Buchanan. Buchanan says that Denton's The Soul of Things was in three volumes and was published under a different title in England. Guiley's Harper's Encyclopedia of Mystical & Paranormal Experience on pages 487 and 488 gives a fairer account of Buchanan, but refers to "this book" Journal of Man. I have a bound volume of this, the Vol. 2 a monthly dated from February, 1888 to January, 1889, which I hope to examine thoroughly. Holmes had access to the first volume of the Journal of Man and quotes it in The Facts of Psychic Science and Philosophy Collated and Discussed (London, Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner, 1925); he also quotes from the Manual. He gives Denton's English title as Nature's Secrets, or Psychometric Researches.

Buchanan's wife Cornelia was a medium and psychometrist whose divinings he details at length. Buchanan, like Uri Geller, says investigate for yourself and apparently considered psychic sensitivity an undeveloped faculty in humans.

If you do not have a copy of Holmes, I recommend that you get one and read page 172, Section 166. It describes a case of automatic writing done in two minutes which would normally take at least 20 minutes. This beats the speed of Geraldine Cummins of which I sent a note to Guy Lyon Playfair.

Buchanan on pages 156 and 157 predicted Uri Geller's success at locating oil and gold. On page 181f he details the case of Jane Rider of Springfield (1834). On page 125 Of the 2nd section he says: "...the most gifted psychometers always follow a character into the post-mortem as well as the anti-mortem life..." He was evidently convinced of human survival.

I consider that Buchanan has been unjustly neglected.

Chester D. Guthbert
September 15, 2002

Buchan, John

The Moon Endureth: Tales and Fancies; London, Hodder and
Stoughton Limited (circa 1921) 269p.

Contents

1. The Company of the Marjolaine	1
2. A Lucid Interval	35
3. The Lemnian	72
4. Space	96*
5. Streams of Water in the South	121
6. The Grove of Ashtaroth	141*
7. The Riding of Ninemileburn	174
8. The Kings of Orion	193
9. The Green Glen	226*
10. The Rime of True Thomas	258*

Each of these tales is preceded by a poem #5 and #10 were
reprinted from Grey Weather (1899).

The asterisk indicates a fantasy story. I recall only #4
having been reprinted in an anthology.

#8 is possibly classifiable as fantasy because it describes
the possibility of multiple personalities. It is, however, told
as a mundane event.

#4 is a Leithen tale.

There are, apart from the fantasies, several good stories
in this volume, though the Scottish dialect is bothersome.

Chester D. Cuthbert
December 27, 1995

Note: Paperback (#594), (1963)

307p

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C E L E B R A T I N G
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
— 1962-1987 —
LE PREMIER QUART DE SIÈCLE
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FirstCity Trust

Buchan, John

Prester John; New York, George H. Doran Company (1910,
author); Map 309p.
London, etc., Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd (53rd Impr.)1936
302p

Note: Doran intended to re-title this novel as The Great Diamond Pipe; the left hand pages bear this title throughout.

A 19-year old Scottish lad is sent to South Africa to replace a boozing trader and discovers that the trader has been dealing in illegal diamonds. He builds a branch store, but before he can stock it is involved in a war to overthrow white rule by blacks led by a giant genius who had qualified as a Christian minister, but had been seen by the lad to practise a black magic ritual. The genius claimed to be a reincarnation of Prester John and destined to rule over Africa.

A collar of rubies formerly worn by the Queen of Sheba was a symbol of the Prester John power, and contending for possession of this between the genius and the lad, the overthrowing of a Portuguese traitor who dealt in the illegal diamonds, and the tragic end of the genius, are the elements of this adventure story.

Buchan was familiar with conditions in South Africa, and I am impressed by his acceptance as a means of communication among the blacks by telepathy. He provides an instance in the course of the story.

Although not listed in Bleiler, this novel qualifies as a fantasy.

Chester D. Cuthbert
December 27, 1995

Note: Paperback, London, Pan Books Ltd (#02649), Third Printing,
(1972) 222p.

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FirstCity Trust

Buchan, John

The Thirty-Nine Steps; London, Pan Books Ltd (#218)
(1959), (1962), (1971) 138p.

I recently saw the movie version on Channel 3 (Cable), and one episode involving the milkman struck me as atypical of both Buchan as a writer and Hannay as a character, so I decided to read this book.

I was right; the book version of the incident differed.

This is intrigue, murder, adventure, in London and in Scotland, with German spies trying to escape with vital information after killing an important Greek statesman. Told in the first person by Hannay, the suspense is well-maintained by having him chased by both the British police on account of the murder, and by the Germans who know he has the secrets of the murdered man and will try to thwart them.

A good story, but it falls short of its reputation.

Harmondsworth, Middlesex, Penguin Books (#1130), (1915,
1956) 126p.

Buchan, John

The Watcher by the Threshold and Other Tales; Edinburgh
and London, William Blackwood & Sons Ltd., (n.d.) 334p.

Contents

1. No-Man's-Land	3*
2. The Far Islands	103*
3. The Watcher by the Threshold	149*
4. The Outgoing of the Tide	225*
5. Fountainblue	265

Note: * indicates fantasy.

(1) is a horror story about a man who is captured and held as an intended sacrifice by Picts living underground in Scotland. (I have a copy of the book mentioned on page 9 of this story.) (2) is a mystical story about the influence of a desire for an ideal living place. (3) is a convincing portrayal of a man haunted by a personal devil, a classic weird tale. (4) is a story of foretold tragedy. (5) is a mundane love story. tragic because the hero loses.

Apart from abundant use of Scots dialect, these stories are excellent examples of Buchan's fantasies.

Chester D. Cuthbert
January 6, 1996

3246 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3K 0Y9
(204) 831-7777

C E L E B R A T I N G
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
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Buchan, John

Witch Wood; London, Hodder and Stoughton Limited; (July 1927 July, 1934 reprint)	380p
Paperback edition (#608), (1963)	380p

In his short biography of Buchan, Turner says that Buchan considered this his favorite novel. It is, indeed, a fine one, marred for the general reader only by the plentiful use of Scots words, many of which despite footnotes are obscure to most.

A young minister discovers that a coven of witches is holding Black magic meetings in a nearby wood which many of his parishioners refuse to enter, even by day. His father dies, leaving him wealthy, but because of humble birth he hesitates to declare his love for a young noblewoman until she signifies that she returns his feelings. She helps him to succor people when a plague strikes but dies herself from its exhausting effects. The minister, after failing to get church superiors to accept his charges against a falsely pious leader of the coven, confronts the man and predicts his death which ensues when the man goes mad. The minister is not seen again.

Buchan uses Montrose as a minor character whose personality the minister finds attractive and one of whose warriors he shields until recovered from a broken leg.

I agree with Ned Brooks that this is an historical novel, not a fantasy. Because it involves witchcraft many people consider it fantastic, but Buchan portrays the situation, even to a witchfinder rationalistically.

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Buchanan, Joseph Rolos, (1832.)

Journal of Psychometry: The Dawn of a New Civilization;
Fourth Edition; Boston, Frank A. Hodges, 1893 (Author, 1888)
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I consider that Buchanan has been unjustly neglected.

Chas. F. Mithers
September 15, 1932

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MANITOBA

Buchan, Susan

Jim and the Dragon; Illustrated by George Morrow; London,
Hodder and Stoughton Limited (1929) 72p.

Jim and his brother Peter and sister Susan had an ottoman full of broken toys; no toys seemed strong enough to withstand their being played with.

One day Jim went outside and sat on a log, and two elves led him to a tree which they opened with a key and took him to fairyland. There he rode a dragon which had been transformed from a horse, was made king, met a glow-worm who could travel between the real world and fairyland, ate from golden dishes which bounced back into position if they were scattered onto the ground, and ultimately grew tired of fairyland.

On his return home he took some souvenirs for his family, and all profited greatly from them.

This is a simple fairy story, of no great interest or importance, nicely illustrated with line drawings.

Buchanan, Madeleine Sharps

Haunted Bells; New York, Chelsea House (1929) 251p.

Although there are associational connotations with the fantasy field such as the ringing of bells presaging deaths on an estate, and mediumistic seances, these are rationally explained as the machinations of drug smugglers and people who have designs on the millionaire's wealth.

Ray Bartley determines to unravel the mystery of his senior partner's death while spying on the beautiful wife of millionaire Sheldon, but developments keep him puzzled until the close of the story. The incidents and characters are subordinated to the plot, which is unconvincing. Although fairly interesting, everything in this book is so obviously contrived as to fail to involve the reader.

A less than averagely interesting detective story.

Buchanan, Marie

Morgana; Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, Inc.
1977; (1977, Author) 287p.

Primarily an historical novel about the court of King James I of England who wrote a book about demonology, this is also a fantasy novel centering on Bess, who believes herself to ~~xxx~~ be the illegitimate daughter of the King, and is one of her half-sister's attendants. Red-haired like the Stuarts she loves her brother the Prince of Wales, who dies young; she follows her half-sister to Europe, is involved in the 30 Years' War, loves a blind nobleman and joins him in trying to rebuild his estates.

Much attention is given to dreams and visions, precognition, and psychic awareness. Incidental material about witchcraft and the prevailing beliefs of the 16th Century is provided.

I found this story, although well enough researched and written, a drag to read. Centering about a child who takes little active part in the events of her time, the story lacks immediacy and dramatic action. The degeneracy of the court is depicted, and the character of King James described helpfully. His persecution of Sir Walter Raleigh is highlighted.

If I ever read King James's book, this novel would be valuable to describe the background.

HOME STREET



CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

240 HOME STREET • WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3G 1X3 • (204) 783-5881

January 3, 1981

Dear Member of the Eldership/Diaconate:

The following pages describe a new program designed to enhance the meaning in being an elected leader of the Church, and to increase the potential for personal and church growth. It was introduced to and approved by the Board at its December meeting. This approval was given with the understanding that the ultimate acceptance, implementation, and operation of the program depends upon you.

This program is not at all complex. With your cooperation and effort it should not take too long to become fully operational and effective. Note that some elements of the program may later be modified or eliminated, with the development by the Evangelism Committee of a comprehensive program of evangelism for our congregation.

Fully implemented, the program should result in:

- a higher sense of the true importance of your office.
- an enhancement of the people's perception of the Elders as the Church's spiritual leaders, in accordance with the Biblical concept.
- a fairer and more orderly schedule for responsibilities related to worship.
- a more equal division of all duties and responsibilities so that the burden does not fall upon just a few.
- better organization and communication.
- the involvement of more persons (non-officers) in the worship service.
- the operation of an effective, ongoing greeter program for worship services.
- meaningful contact with visitors to the Church.
- more efficient contact with "prospects".
- more effective and responsive ministry.
- church growth.

In order to deal with questions and concerns you may have concerning the program, there will be a brief Elder-Deacon meeting following worship on Sunday, January 18. As you begin your individual involvement in the program, I will seek a time to meet with you personally to help to be prepared for understanding and fulfilling any new responsibilities about which you may feel uncertain.

Buchanan, Robert

The Wandering Jew: A Christmas Carol; London, Chatto & Windus, 1893 (Second Edition) 164p.

A long poem in which Jesus is again arraigned in the light of 1800 years of history. Buchanan shows that in the name of Christ, horrors and persecution, sin and degradation have been perpetrated in his name, and that Christianity has much to answer for.

This edition is more important than the first because in it the author gives his answer to some of the criticisms aroused by the first. Although Ahuserus (?) is a character Jesus is identified with the Wandering Jew, seeking still to establish his ideals despite the faults of humanity.

I am not competent to understand this poem, but it is quite apparently a visionary fantasy attacking the complacency of the established Church.

Buckland, Raymond

Ancient and Modern Witchcraft; Illustrated;; Secaucus, New Jersey, Castle Books, Inc. (1970, HCPublishers, Inc.; Bibliography 192p,

Brought into the craft by the coven of the late Gerald Gardner in 1962, Buckland established the only Museum of Witchcraft and Magic in the U. S. A. and he and his wife are considered the best qualified sources of information.

This book summarizes the view of Dr. Margaret Murray of witchcraft as a religion predating Christianity and deplores the activities of Anton LaVey, Crowley, self-styled "Official Witches" and Satanists in general.

A fairly lengthy summary of the Salem witchcraft trials and of modern sensational events which have cast unreliable doubt on the respectability of witchcraft, and a comparison of ancient and modern views make this a popular appeal for tolerance.

Poor proof-reading allowed some mistakes into print, but as a short introduction to the subject, this is acceptable.

Chester D. Cuthbert
February 26, 1999

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Winnipeg, Manitoba R3K 0Y9
(204) 831-7777

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FirstCity Trust

Buckland, Raymond

Guide to the Supernatural; London, Tandem Books (#12167)
(1960, author), (January, 1973); Bibliography 181p.

This is a fairly comprehensive introductory book which takes a positive and accepting view of the various occult sciences, including the psychic. I glanced over the chapters dealing with astrology, palmistry, numerology, and the Tarot, also the I Ching, since these would require research I do not contemplate accomplishing.

The chapters on psychic matters, however, are adequate for the book's purpose, and I learned that Miss Grace Rosher presented automatic writing as from William Crookes.

Arthur Ford is said to be the outstanding medium of the time in which this book was written.

Buckland dismisses spirit photography prior to the thoughtography of Ted Serios, and does not mention the early work of Fukurai (1931).

I paid little attention to the chapters on ceremonial and black magic.

The author is not so cautionary as I would recommend in a book of this kind, and is more inclined to give credence to a great variety of methods of investigating the unseen world than I am, but he has apparently studied good books, and the bibliography is helpful for a beginner.

Buckley, F. R.

The Sage Hen; Indianapolis, The Bobbs-Merrill Company
(1925) (1923, Street & Smith) 296p.

A very well written and well-constructed western about John Arnold who hired himself out to the International Beef Concern in order to learn their plans to force Joan Bruce to sell her ranch after her father and brother had been killed. John fights David Graht, a college amateur boxer who stirs up trouble by taking the offensive against the IBC, and defeats him; saves Joan from being kidnapped by the IBC and their lawyer and local manager Rigby; sets himself at the head of a gang of outlaws by defeating their chief and promising them enough money to enable them to go straight; and then renounces Joan and his leadership by admitting having killed Joan's brother in spite of the brother having saved him from jail and given him an opportunity to go straight.

John is saved by the action of a peg-legged sheriff, Garfield, who tracks back and finds that Joan's brother is still living and produces him to refute the perjured evidence of "witnesses" who say they saw John kill Bruce. John tries to fool Joan into thinking he is married because he feels that there is little chance that he will be allowed to go straight; but the sheriff returns him to Joan.

A well above average western.

Budrys, Algis

False Night; New York, Lion Books, Inc. (#230), (1954,
Budrys) 127p.

Chapter six was originally published in Galaxy Magazine under the title "Ironclad".

This is an indication that this novel is a patchwork of stories concerning generations of a family commencing with a post-epidemic and chaotic social anarchy and proceeding to a war between opposing factions, one cooperative, the other dictatorial. Apart from its temporal setting in the future, there is no fantasy element, and although the writing is good and may convey a message, its significance eludes me. It may be the necessity to sink to primitive actions for the survival of life, and then attempting to re-civilize society which the author attempts to depict, but his characters and their motives are obscure.

I could find nothing of permanent interest.

Budrys, Algis

Michaelmas; Published by Berkley Publishing Corporation
Distributed by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York (1977, Budrys);
Based on shorter and different version in F&SF, 1976 253p.

Michaelmas is the top investigative reporter in the world, and has the assistance of a computer connected within his mind. He is trying to solve the mystery of the appearance of an astronaut who had died some years previously in a crash, but who has been either duplicated or revived and is a possible future president.

The entire story is the actions of various groups who are likewise trying to solve the mystery. Michaelmas is attracted to a woman of middle age, and who co-operates with him, but is uncertain of her loyalty. He is also competing with a rival who brings about the death of another rival in his efforts at ascendancy.

The conclusion indicates that an alien intelligence has formulated the possibility of the existence of the human race and may have been the operator of the mystery while trying blunderingly to understand communication.

It is quite possible that I have misunderstood the entire novel. I found it beyond my ability to follow its development, and there was so little of interest to me that I could not concentrate in my efforts to comprehend it.

Certainly, without guidance in the form of a good review of this book, it would be hopeless for me to re-read it.

The Pyx; New York, Popular Library (445-02482-060),
(1959, Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, Inc.) 127p.

Elizabeth Lucy, a call girl who works with two others for an experienced madame, is told that she must comply with the demands of two men who control the racket. Elizabeth is a junkie who has managed to keep her craving for drugs within a reasonable limit by occasionally withdrawing from Meg's apartment to a lonely one of her own where she occasionally permits Jimmy, a homosexual, to stay when the pressures of the world are too much for him.

The story begins with Elizabeth's suicide from the roof of the apartment house in which Keerson occupies the pent-house. A detective named Henderson traces his suspicions of murder to the point where he confronts Keerson, learning that when Keerson had handed a golden locket (the pyx) containing a host to Elizabeth, she had partaken of the host to prevent him from profaning it, so he pushed her from the roof. In the final scene, it appears that Keerson is a dual personality, possibly controlled by a devil; it is only this revelation which brings the book into the realm of fantasy.

Although the story is quite the usual one of a girl of good family who takes to prostitution and drugs, and realizes that there can be only one end to her life, it is told well, and the reader hopes that her final thwarting of evil will mean her ultimate redemption.

Bulford, Staveley

The Mystery of Ourselves: "Man, Know Thyself"; London,
L. N. Fowler & Co., no.date; 108p.

This is a superficial study of the several "bodies" and the auras of man and the physical and spiritual lives. Only the quotations from George Crile, Dr. Edwin Ash, and Dr. W. J. Kilner (The Human Atmosphere, 1920) give scientific support to his dogmatic assertions, and these provide substance to his arguments.

Otherwise, and since he credits astrology with influence on individual human affairs, this book represents fuzzy thinking and a credulous acceptance of occult teachings.

It could, however, spark interest in the idea that the conscious waking mind is but a part of our motivational equipment.



1982 ALL-CANADA CONVENTION

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

REGISTRATION FORM EXPLANATION

This year there is a Women's Retreat prior to the Convention itself. The Mennonite Brethren Bible College is available Tuesday night for those wishing to arrive early for this event.

A. Registration ... We hope you will find this self explanatory. Please note separate registration for Encounter Groups. There is no Convention registration fee for children under eleven years. (See Day Care).

B. Accomodation... The Menmonite Brethren Bible College is passing along the \$8.00 per person bedding charge, in which they receive no profit. This bedding is for the entire time, regardless of how long you stay.

Children twelve years and under who stay with adults, will be provided with a mattress at one half the \$4.50 adult price... i.e. \$2.25 per night and their linen is \$8.00

C. Meals... For catering purposes, the Mennonite Brethren Bible College must have an accurate count in advance of the Convention.

You will note there is no supper being served on Saturday at the Convention site. The cafeteria will be closed on Sunday morning. Home Street church will be providing a light complimentary lunch following the Sunday morning worship service.

For children under twelve, all meals are half adult price, with exception of those three years and under, whose meals are free.

The C.C.W.F. luncheon has been combined with the C.C.M.F. luncheon because of our special speaker, Dr. Jean Woolfolk.

D. Child Care.... The cost of \$4.00 per day includes two snacks and a noon meal, and the childs care after breakfast until 5.00 p.m.

Whales and Other Sea Creatures by Frank T. Bullen, F.R.G.S.

1. Sperm Whale's Autobiography: Born in Indian Ocean, earliest sensations pleasant. Whales know the oceans to a depth of 500 fathoms from North to South within the frigid zones. They have an exquisite contrivance in their gullets which enables them effortlessly to take in food and shut out water, even at enormous depths. They travel in schools, about one bull to each four cows. Bulls 70 feet long are not uncommon. Whales can only see behind them, their eyes being located a little below where the shoulders are in a man and almost in the middle of the body's breadth. Whales touch foreheads as token of affection. Sperm whales wean early, there being not the intensity of maternal affection characterising other species. At less than a month old, the baby takes his place as an ordinary member of the school. At great depths the whale's nostril is sealed by the pressure; but the mouth is left open to catch food. The whales are supreme among sea-citizens. Whales can stay under for as much as an hour, but in schools the length of submerged time is only that which can be sustained by the smallest member. Breathing member is called spiracle. Whales communicate by subtle interchange of thought, and obey the commands of the leader. When migrating, they do so at a uniform speed of about 6 m.p.h., forming into ranks. Early desires are to eat and to dissipate the strength obtained from food in play. Cannot disobey the guidance of the chief. So rich in life are the tepid Indian seas that even in a short six day journey a whale becomes encrusted with parasitical growths, barnacles, moss and tiny limpets, so he enjoys scraping himself on a coral reef.

The chief rules despotically but is immediately deposed if he becomes unfit to rule through age, sickness or any infirmity.

When danger impends, the whale knows intuitively. Cold is the Sperm Whale's chief horror, and he shuns the vicinity of ice. Giant cuttle-fish are the natural prey and food of the sperm whale.

Primal needs: 1. Desire for food. 2. Intense, overmastering desire to have wives and children, and, in consequence desire for supremacy over other males. Females are inferior in size, agility and ferocity, never exceeding half the dimensions of the full-grown bulls. They are gentle, timid, and desire only to remain by their lord and obey his slightest sign, even to die with him; though they are not fond mothers. Imitation is one of the primary laws of being, thus the young bull learns the craft of the chief.

The whale is the oldest of living created things; individually he attains the age of 75 years or so. He has small brain but great intelligence.

2. The Mysticetus, or Right Whale: Intelligence of a lower order than the Sperm Whale. Great mystery about him: what does he do with himself during the Arctic night when open water, absolutely necessary to him as to other sea-mammals, is not obtainable because of ice in the Polar seas? He does not come south; is never seen in temperate waters. Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis). Open Polar Sea theory is chimerical. Possibly hybernation is the answer.

Whalemen calculate the size of their victims by the number of barrels of oil they yield. Sperm whale yields oil and spermaceti, greatest yield of both about 16 tons, while the Right Whale (called the Bowhead in the Northern Pacific) has tried out 25 tons of blubber alone having no spermaceti. Yet opinion of writer is that sperm whale would be the bulkier, male, but the female ~~Sperm~~ Mysticetae are as a rule larger than the males. In contrast to the Sperm, life is easy-going. These largest of created things feed on accumulated myriads of ocean's smallest visible denizens, minute shellfish which subsist on unseen fauna of the fecund sea and are found in red bands, 100 ft. broad. The whale-bone of commerce is gristle, nothing exists which is less like bone. The right whale has a gullet $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter only, and he

alone of all whales has this strangely restricted gullet. The sperm whale can swallow morsels six cubic feet in size (adult whale). The breathing apparatus is entirely unconnected with the mouth in all sea-mammals; it is absolutely impossible while they live for water to enter the breathing channels. Schools are smaller in number than among the sperm whales; a bull, two cows and two calves may comprise a whole family. No competition for headship. Fat is often 2ft thick over their bodies which may account for their sluggishness, or possibly the ease with which they obtain food may. They are easy prey to a killer whale (*Orca gladiator*), 1/100th their size, six of which tear ~~him~~ them apart, then enter the mouth fearlessly to devour the succulent tongue, often 2 tons in weight. Whole tribes of suckers (*Remora*) live in the whale's mouth, parasitically. The sword-fish (*Xiphias*) also preys on the right whale; it is a species of mackerel. The shortness of the sword (more like a lance in shape) cannot often penetrate the blubber, only worrying the whale adult but being fatal to the young, and often joining forces with the killer whale. The 'thresher' shark preys on the right whale (*Alopias vulpes*). Whale lice (like garden wood-lice, but larger and with tenacious barbed claws) cling parasitically. They remain under water for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. at a time but must breathe for a like period, regardless of danger; a certain number of breathings is an imperative necessity to all whales, and no irregularity or lessening of their number can be endured while life lasts. Closely akin to the Right Whale of Greenland is the Southern Right Whale (*Balaena australis*). They are slenderer, prefer the waters just outside the Antarctic circle, between 30 and 65 degrees S., near land.

Gracia must have telepathed the news of his presence to the colonists. For a moment Williams could not understand. Then he realized that into her own hands."

"You are granted a reprieve, Williams. Gracia has taken the matter words startled him to attention.

The latter had hardly noticed the clamor. But the Master's first to Williams.

started; stood silent and absorbed for perhaps a minute; then turned A sudden tumult sounded from the direction of the city. The Master

Goodbye to—"

to let you live." He took Williams by the arm. "I hope you said your world the greatest service in your power. I wish it were possible

Buranelli, Vincent

The Wizard from Vienna; New York, Coward, McCann & Geoghegan
Inc.(1975, author); Illustrated;; appendix; Bibliography; Index
256p

This is the most recent detailed biography known to me and I agree with the dust jacket blurb that much information is given which is not readily available in North America. I was greatly impressed to note that on page 225 he quotes a letter received by Poe from "A Bostonian" (Dr. Robert H. Collyer). Collyer was a pioneer researcher and practitioner of mesmerism and anaesthesia, undeservedly neglected in the literature of psychic healing.

On page 216 the author summarizes current thinking about the ideas of Mesmer, but I cannot agree that it is correct. Sinnett pointed out the differences between mesmerism and hypnotism; this summary favors the medical rather than the psychological view of mesmerism.

The index makes a review of this book unnecessary, but it is an excellent reference.

Chester D. Cuthbert
April 15, 2000

Burgess, Anthony

A Clockwork Orange; (Stanley Kubrick's movie based on the Novel); New York, Ballantine Books (#02696) unpaginated

Garth Danielson won a couple of tickets to this movie; Mike Nichols could not attend, so Garth invited me to go to Polo Park Cinema with him. It was the first movie I had attended in about 18 years, and I found it shocking, but also fascinating.

Classics Books had this volume on sale at half-price, so I bought it as a memento. The book does not give a clear presentation of the story to one who has not seen the movie, but is a good reminder to anyone who has.

Burgess, Anthony

The Pianoplayers; London, etc., Century Hutchinson Ltd.
(1986, author) 208p.

Taken into a tape recorder by a madam of advancing years and transcribed by a young writer unable to continue his novel because of writers' block, this is really three stories.

The first is told by a young girl brought up by her pianoplayer father whose talents were limited to poor theaters and precarious livelihood, seduced at an early age, and led to become a prostitute. Her father tries a marathon, and dies from overexertion and exhaustion while playing his piano.

The second tells of the life of the girl in maturity as she establishes "schools of love" all over the world.

The third tells of her son who marries a frigid wife, is embarrassed by having to have her mother live with them, has his piano sold off so the mother and daughter may have a car; they take the car to the Continent, it breaks down, the mother dies and they have to take her body in the car, they return to England with the body, the wife takes a bath and discovers sex, becomes insatiable, and they live more happily.

Although reasonably entertaining, this is a patchwork job of no importance.

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The Reign of Queen Isyl; New York, McClure, Phillips & Company, 1903 255p.

Although this book is listed in Bleiler, it is not a fantasy.

Queen Isyl comes second in a contest for a beauty queen because the winner has the political influence of her father. When the winner disappears, Isyl must substitute. At the celebration, she is slighted; but a mysterious stranger gives her a ring and promises his devotion if she will grant him an appointment. She gives her handkerchief in token and to enable him to identify himself.

The elected queen has placed herself in charge of the mysterious stranger, who is conducting the management of her love affair with a brilliant young Englishman teaching at Leland Stanford University. Her father had forbidden her to have anything to do with the teacher, but the mysterious stranger, a friend of both, tells the teacher to play hard to get; so the father, miffed, encourages her daughter to make a conquest of him. A pamphlet written by the stranger to outline the campaign falls into the hands of the father, who, realizing that he had been tricked, tries to undo the scheme, but is defeated when his daughter elopes.

This simple story is padded out by short anecdotes of various characters, told like Scheherazade, concerning their respective adventures in love; but none of these are fantasy.

As light romantic entertainment, the book succeeds.

Chitty Chitty.Bang Bang: The Story of the Film; London, Pan Books Ltd (#02207); (1968, Publishers), 1968, Glidrose Productions Ltd.; Colored illustrations 94p.

I read this book mainly to discover the alterations for the musical movie.

In place of the inventor and his wife and family, a professor who is widower, his two children, and the daughter of the manufacturer of candies who buys his formula, are the main characters, and there is more emphasis on the French Baron and Baroness, the latter of whom detests children, the Child Catcher from whom all the children hide, and who takes the place of the gangsters in the Fleming stories, make this almost a totally different story, apart from the magical car itself.

Neither book is of great importance in a fantasy collection, but both would probably be enjoyed by children.

Burke, Thomas

Billy and Beryl in Soho; Illustrated by Will Fyfe; London/Bombay/Sydney, George G. Harrap & Co. Ltd. (1936) 93p.

This book was badly water-damaged when I bought it, but as I collect the author's works, I was glad to find it.

The color frontispiece and illustrations are well done and add to the interest of the story, which is little more than an evening's visit to Soho of the children accompanied as guide by a cab driver who in the conclusion of the book tells of an eccentric fare who pays him to visit several of the name places of England, finding each less attractive than its reputation, but being generous with money, careless about eating during the journey.

An old French woman who had met the cabbie Old George during the war provides them with a tasty repast, and they learn the names of various foods and to distinguish between meats and vegetables. George tells them about eating places and his habits as a cabbie reminding fares of their first trips with him when he remembers them, and thus adding to the size of his tips.

As with all of Burke's books, his love of London and of ordinary people becomes apparent.

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Billy and Beryl in Soho; Illustrated by Will Fyffe;
London, Bombay, Sydney, George G. Harrap & Co. Ltd. (1936) 93p

The children are taken by "Old George" a taxi driver to visit Madame Chose in Soho, and learn that this is like a French city within London, various sections of which are so occupied by people of foreign cultures as to make the English appear like foreigners in these districts.

Towards the end of the book George narrates a day's trip with an eccentric fare which is a short story in itself.

An interesting introduction to a special district of London.

The Charm of England; An Anthology Compiled and Edited by Thomas Burke; London, Truslove and Hanson Limited; Color Frontispiece; Index 179p.

This is an anthology of prose and poetry expressing the charm and spirit of England under six headings. The fifth, English Customs and Festivals, I had thought might convey ideas of these not easily found in books specializing in the subject; but I derived little from this book.

It is, however, a handsome little book, with ornamental cover and colored endpapers, and pleasant for incidental reading. Like most of Burke's London wanderings, it shows his personal interests as well as being of general interest because of its theme.

East of Mansion House; New York, George H. Doran Company
(1926) 270p.

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5. Crash!	123
6. A Spot of Water	143*
7. The Top of the Stairs	161
8. Adventure	181
9. Dow	197
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11. The Tablets of the House of Li	231*
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#4 is only possibly fantasy because of the implication in the ending. #6 describes the influence of autosuggestion during a trance induced by a spot of water on a bar. #11 is the only story in this book which is of real importance in a fantasy collection, and it deserves reprinting. It tells of how, by magical incantations, a Chinese transferred from a little girl to himself, a fatal illness at the cost of the honor of his family and the loss of his own life.

Most of the stories deal with the daily life of the slums of London, and have human interest. I did not understand #7, and #12 did not impress me as conveying genuine characters or situation. #1 may be of interest to fantasy fans as a study in the psychology of fantasy, but it is not itself fantastic.

Wike, Thomas

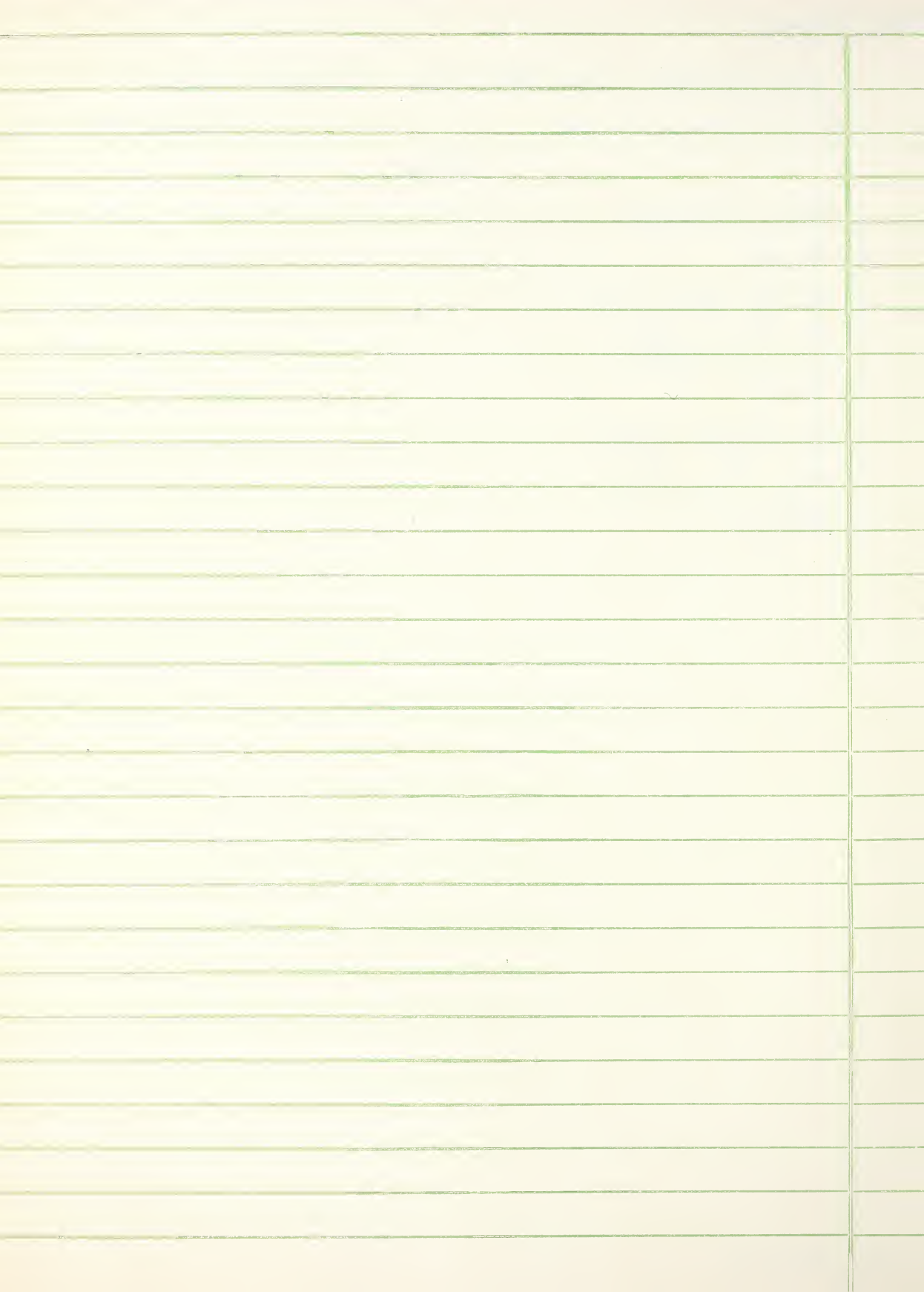
"In Chinatown" More Stories from "Limehouse Nights"

Grant Richards Limited

London, 1921 188 pp.

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ake, Thomas

"Limehouse Nights: Tales of Chinatown"

Daily Express Fiction Library

London, N.D.

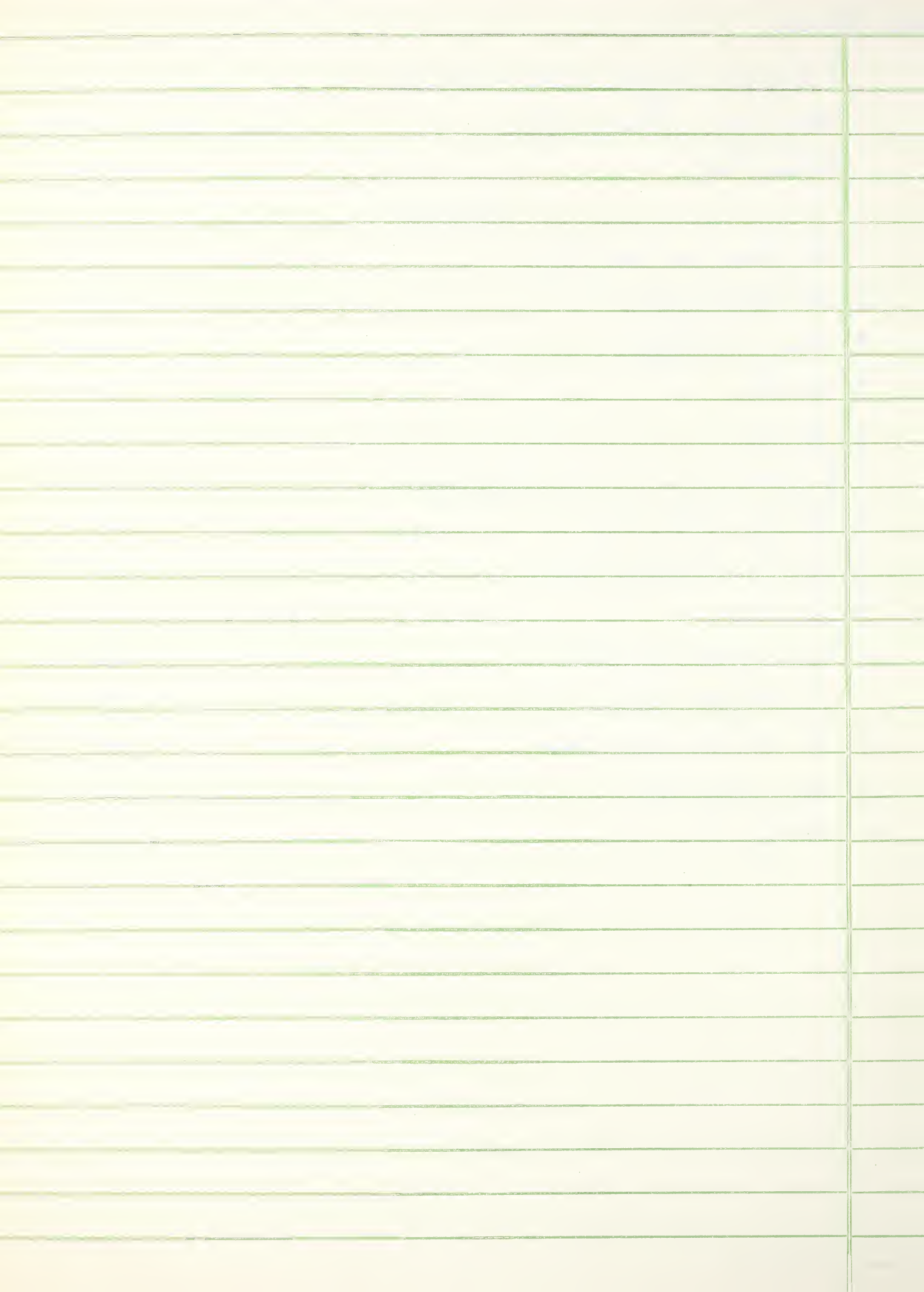
252 p.p.

Editor's Note

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Burke, Thomas

Living in Bloomsbury; London, George Allen & Unwin Ltd;
(1939) 361p.

In the Spring section Burke outlines his impressions of the writing process, admitting that much comes from the subconscious. In the Winter section he has some thoughts on art and music which indicate original thinking.

Much of his text refers to scenes, buildings, inns, food, and other interests of little value to me. His discursive style enables him to convey impressions and incidents, even humorous jokes, which carry the reader along pleasantly. His comments on characters like Charlie Chaplin are illuminating.

He dismisses the importance of money too lightly, but is in the main correct in saying that it eliminates the necessity to do worthwhile work.

When this book was published I could not have afforded to buy it, so I was pleased to get this ex-library copy. Burke admitted in it that he was less well off financially than in his earlier and more popular career, but he was not complaining.

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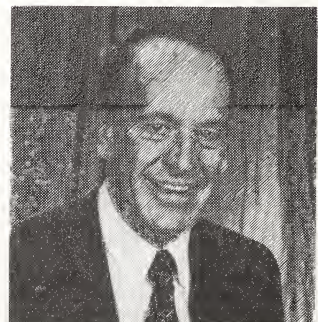


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AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER BROKER



Living in Bloomsbury; London, George Allen & Unwin Ltd
(1939) 361p.

This is a discursive volume of reminiscences of London life. Divided according to the seasons of the year, Burke offers his thoughts on life and his personal interests, many of the latter being of little importance to me, though I am wholly in agreement with his philosophy.

In Spring, he contrasts American with English humor, points out that Victorian society was much freer and less inhibited than our own, and that the typical Englishman of that age as portrayed in fiction was representative of less than 10% of the population, and says that "Kipps" is his choice as true of his type. In writing, he emphasises the importance of individuality over literary expertise, and is unable to attribute that quality to the newer writers; thus he agrees with me. John o' London's real name was Wilfred Whitten (p.69). On p.73 he mentions Norman Douglas and A. R. Orage. On p.77 he says his favorite of his own books is The Flower of Life. On pages 84-89 he sets forth the most important comments in the whole book, on inspiration and the fact that fictional situations are fulfilled in real life; and on pages 89-97 says that the short story is more difficult to write than the novel because of its necessary brevity and praises the art of "A. J. Alan" in story-telling and why it differs from story-writing. On pages 100-101 he mentions Thomas Vaughan.

In Summer, he praises Ethan Frome. He mentions that his wife was known as Clare Cameron; this is the first mention in any of his books that I have read of his wife. He respects Grant Richards both as author and as publisher, and shows the strange parallels in their personal lives.

In Autumn, he praises the nineteenth century writers for their robust story-telling, Whyte-Melville, Charles Reade, G. W. M. Reynolds, Samuel Warren's Ten Thousand a Year, Sheridan leFanu more for his novels than for his weird tales though he admits their importance, and draws attention to the placid refreshment obtainable from Charles Alston Collins's A Cruise Upon Wheels. On pages 216-227 he mentions books and book-shops. Being-in-love is the ideal psychological mood for creative writing.

In Winter, he mentions on page 300 some favorite tales; spends much time on Murger and Puccini, on pages 336-337 tells of the immediate recognition by intelligent reviewers of the more important new writers, Machen's Hieroglyphics, then goes on for many pages deploring the effect of Dickens's A Christmas Carol in making the celebration a commercial obligation. He says that characters and divagations are the memorable parts of books, rather than the stories.

Well written, this conveys Burke's charm and personality.

Burke, Thomas

The London Spy: A Book of Town Travels; London, Thornton
Butterworth, Limited (Nov., 1922) 318p.
George H. Doran Company, New York, 1922 324p.

This is a third book of London jaunts and reflections, including biographical reminiscences. Burke speaks out very plainly against institutional regimentation of body and spirit; describes the evils inherent in commercialization of necessary and instinctual urges, and in organized charitable institutions. My respect for Johnny Dowling and Marie has been increased by reading this book.

Burke's description of a jaunt with Charlie Chaplin, and his impressions of that genius are interesting and noteworthy. His description of his short-time job as a rent-collector is also an indictment of the private landlord system under capitalism, but I'm not sure that it isn't to be preferred to the institutionalization which he also condemns. He is quite outspoken in favor of freedom to love, as against the alternative of commercialized vice.

These three books should give an adequate picture of life in London to anyone curious to know of it. Burke makes his own viewpoint clear, and the fact that after having had several books published, he was still poverty-stricken, should be a sufficient warning against the literary life as a means of livelihood. Yet he stuck with it, probably because it had for him the main reason for living.

urke, Thomas

"More Limbouse Nights"
George H. Doran Company

New York, 1921 282 pp.

Contents

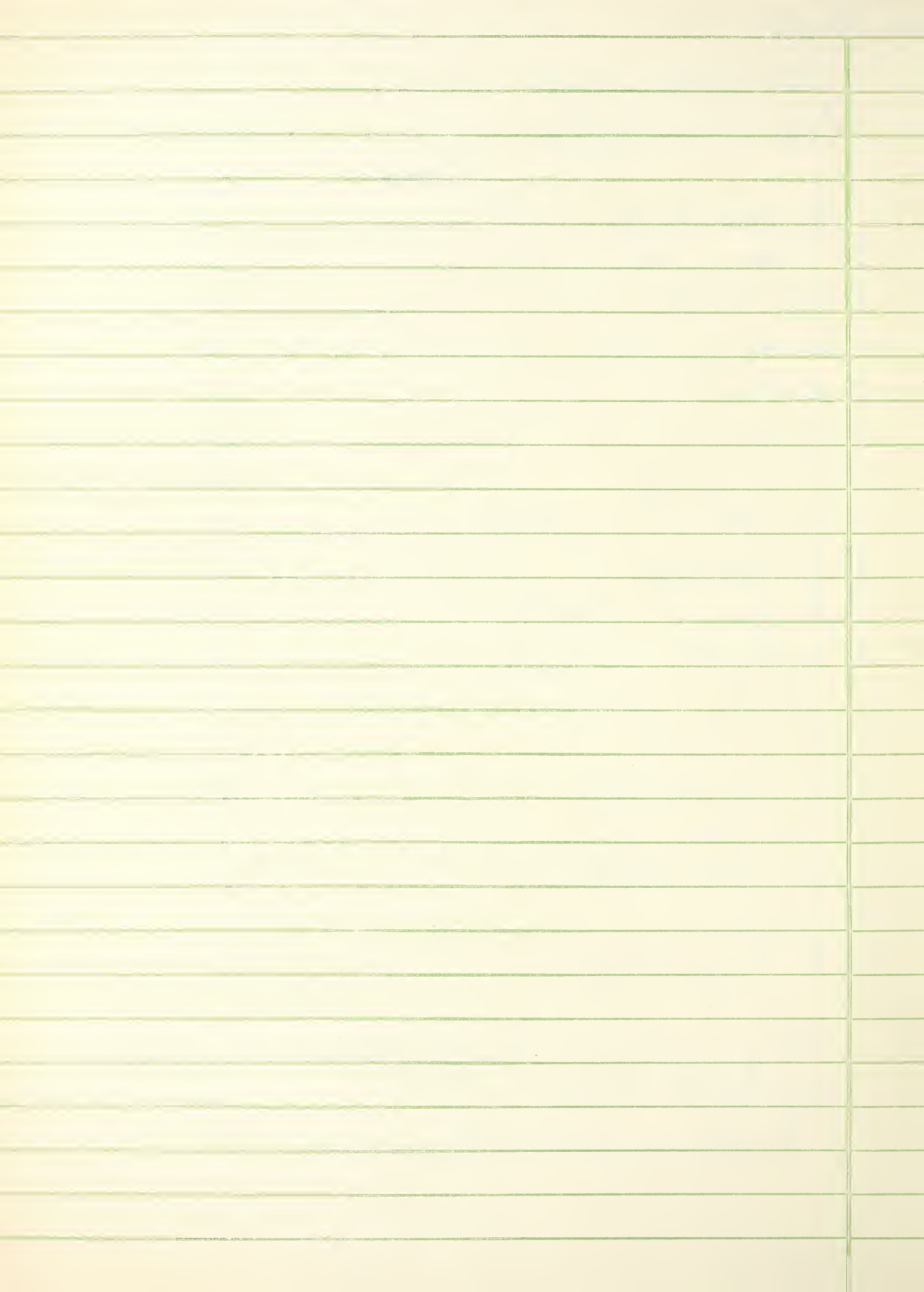
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"Whispering Hindoos: Tales of the Waterside" (British Edition)

Grant Richards Limited

London, 1921 309 pp.

The stories are published in the same order



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13. The Man Who Lost His Head	199*
14. Murder Under the Crooked Spire	219
15. The Lonely Inn	229*
16. Events at Wayless-Wagtail	267*
17. The Hollow Man	289*

(1) is a rather contrived tale of magic. (2) is a far-fetched story of a man visiting his childhood neighborhood and seeing the ghosts of three friends, all of whom died the same day. (3) is of a writer who visualizes a murder, then is a victim himself, and might qualify as borderline fantasy. (4) racing and stock market prevision. (5) haunted by an idol in circumstances which are not explained, though the conclusion indicates fraud and makes the story mundane. (6) an old man's son is unworthy. (7) an allegory which could be called fantasy, something like William Wilson by Poe. (8) How two friends are bilked. (9) Haunted by a locale, a man commits the murder he had earlier imagined. (10) A man and a woman remember the scene of a romance so vividly that they are seen by others as "ghosts" though living, and are brought together by one who knows both. (11) a day in the life of a young workingman. (12) A boy tries to rob his benefactor. (13) A drugged drink causes a man to assume the head of a murderer, and he is convicted. (14) possibly an actual case reconstructed, with an inexplicable factor. (15) A man disappears after visiting with his friend an inn which no longer exists, and which cannot be found, under circumstances which seem to identify him as an informer in a previous life. (16) like (4) a story of prevision, this time of murder prevented by intervention of the psychic. (17) a murderer has to kill a zombie a second time in order to lay it to rest. The zombie appears to draw life from the murderer's daughter, but is soulless and tired, welcoming release.

Many of these stories are not up to the standard of the author's earlier books, and may have been found among his papers.

Burke, Thomas

Nights in Town; London, George Allen & Unwin Ltd.,
Library Edition, (1918), (1915) 287p.
Nights in London; New York, Henry Holt and Company,
1918 (Popular Edition) 270p.

These are autobiographical and environmental essays by a London lover, low-keyed, and referring mainly to jaunts taken casually into various parts of the City. Incidents and manners and customs of the people reveal the source of some of the plots used in Burke's stories, and aside from Burke's own philosophy (that leisure and freedom are worth more than money and position) and that the study of man and his environment suffices, there is little real depth in his essays. His interest in music and books is real, and he did meet Caruso and described his sensation at a Caruso concert, but the main value in the book is to show that his stories were sensationalized representations of life as he saw it.

The boxer Chuck who figured in Twinkletoes is described in one of the sketches, and the source of others of the characters is revealed, but not explicitly.

Aside from enabling me to understand Burke better, this book has no permanent worth to me.

Burke, Thomas

Out and About London; New York, Henry Holt and Company,
1919 (Holt) 190p.

The comments made concerning Nights in Town should extend to this book written a few years later and principally to show the changes which occurred in the few years. Again, Chuck is mentioned by name, and some of the essays merely expand upon previous themes. He ghost-wrote a book for an American millionaire whom he does not name, spending two months in France or Monaco while doing this. This is, of course, a slighter book than the earlier one, but enabled me to confirm my opinion of Burke.

Burke, Thomas

The Outer Circle: Rambles in Remote London; London,
George Allen & Unwin Ltd. (1921) 221p.

As in others of his travel books, Burke's descriptions of his surroundings are of little interest to me; but his incidental comments on the people he meets and the institutions and architecture, historical asides, and literary references he makes, are often fascinating. On page 82 he mentions some literary men whose names have been associated with the districts of Balham and Tooting, and among them Ridgwell Cullum, so I assume that Cullum was English.

His distaste for the cinema, which he does not consider an art form; his contempt for conventional rather than natural conduct; his appreciation of the imaginative power of the written word to suggest scenes and moods, are all in agreement with my own views, though the motion picture has improved vastly since his day.

Like most of his other non-fiction, Burke's writing powers are at least as interesting as his material, and I shall buy his books whenever opportunity serves.

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12. Desirable Villa	167
13. The Secret of Francesco Shedd	187
14. The Hands of Mr. Ottermole	203
15. An Angel Unawares	241
16. Hotel Cote D'Azur	255

This is a book of excellent tales, some of the best of which are not fantasy.

#8 is the story of a murderer tricked into self-betrayal by his conscience, and although actually explicable by means of abnormal psychology, could be classified as fantasy. #12 is an account of a partly-veridical foresight of a murder. #13 tells the story of an inept conjuror who becomes a huge success when he realizes that he is a "physical" medium. He uses his powers for conjuring. #14 is the story of a murderer who suggests that his hands murder independently of his own volition.

I'd like to have kept this book, but to help Richard Minter I mailed it to Kirby McCauley.

Burke, Thomas

Son of London; London, Readers Union with Herbert Jenkins, 1948

256p.

This is a very ill-balanced and uneven autobiography, with far too much space devoted to the early friendship with Freda, who could play the piano and went to France after three years and was not seen again. His friendship with an acrobat known to his musician uncle was also a highlight of his boyhood, and is given a chapter. Not until chapter 8 does he commence his reminiscences of his literary life, and despite having been discouraged by Jack London, Geroge Gissing and many other writers from trying to make a living from writing, he was happy with the life, though poor all through it. His philosophy is practically identical with my own, and freedom to do as he wished meant more than security and wealth.

The last part of the book is worth re-reading from time to time for its literary reflections and memoirs; the early part only for nostalgic childhood thoughts. The language indulged in by the children is fanciful and mature, certainly not a true reflection of their talk (Burke says, p.44,: And today I cannot disentangle fact from dream...I cannot now say certainly of any episode whether it was fact or dream, or partook of both, since both were equally intense experiences.)

Burke says he lived always on the fringe of the literary world, living the literary life, but never being a part of it in the sense of belonging. In this, also, he is like me; but he had the courage, and being independent and without family obligations, the choice, to abandon commercial life and adopt the literary at an early age, and so accomplished many books.

I like Burke very much. His basic philosophy is mine; and although his personal interests (music and London) differ from mine and are of little interest to me, he says that his writings intend to convey more than their ostensible meaning, and I agree that their sociological value is to me higher than their value as scenic description.

His first book was dedicated "To My Mother Who Still Enjoys a Night in Town". Yet neither in his autobiographical novel, nor in this autobiography, does he say a word about his mother. Apparently his father died when he was only a year or so old; he was brought up by an uncle.

The Sun in Splendour; New York, George H. Doran Company
(1926) 329p.

This is apparently Burke's attempt at a "serious" novel.

David Scollard is proprietor of the public house whose name give the book its title. He is not a good business man, and leads a quartet of amateur musicians devoted to serious music two times a week at his home which adjoins the pub. He is embittered about having been unable to achieve his goals in life, but refuses to accept his limitations and wishes his second son Christopher to emulate his ideals. Christopher is a better musician than his father, and follows his aims, desiring to write chamber music; but a wealthy and ambitious friend discovers that Christopher has a talent for popular dance music, and exploits it, much to Christopher's disgust, but to his advantage monetarily. Christopher finally realizes that his friend is right, and that he has mistakenly followed his father's failure to accept his limitations.

Christopher's older brother Eric is a rebel from the bourgeois standards of his family, and runs away to maintain friendship with a world war veteran Arthur Negretti, who, failing to find employment, takes to stealing cars. Eric admires Arthur, but is warned by his father and Arthur's father against living Arthur's kind of life; ignores the advice, and he and Arthur are killed when being chased in cars by the police after they have tried a burglary and been caught.

Connie Giltspur is brought up by an aunt who is a sadistic pious woman, whipping the girl for minor transgressions "for her own good". Connie loves music and often listens to the quartet outside the "Sun", being punished by her aunt for doing so. She is attracted to Christopher, but falls in love with Chris's friend; Chris lets her go; his music is his life. Much of the story concerns Connie's escape from her aunt; her being protected by a prostitute, who dies defending Connie from the advances of her former paramour; and her development into a beautiful young woman.

The relations between the Scollard's and Mrs. Scollard's sister's family take up part of the book, and this novel is to be considered a "family" novel. The elements of action are fairly similar to those in Burke's other books, however, and as there is little more of significance in this than in the others, and it is less interesting to read, I consider it a minor achievement.

Burke, Thomas

Twinkletoes: A Tale of Chinatown; London, Grant Richards Limited, 1918; (September, 1917) 214p.

What a wonderful book! Like Limehouse Nights, it is a tragic portrayal of the beauty and terror of life, and one of the very few books I've read in recent years which made me weep.

Monica Minasi's mother died when she was twelve, but her sign-painter father loved her dearly and brought her up to be dancing and happy. Unable to save anything, he took up a die-stamping business, and succeeded with this in making enough money to give his daughter training enough to enable her to earn 3 pounds a week in the Blue Lantern's variety show as a dancer.

Full of life, always cheerful and dancing, Twinkletoes brightened the life of everyone with whom she came into contact in Shantung Place. So many felt protective towards her and she so worshipped her father that she had resisted the temptations presented by her companions and way of life; but when she learned that her father was in danger of arrest for printing counterfeit money, her faith in him and in her way of life was shattered, and in a drunken party she was taken home by the rouse manager of the troupe, and her father and a retired boxer who tried to save her were too late. Their betrayal to the police was done by the wife of the boxer, who, knowing her husband's hopeless love for Twinks, sought revenge, even to controlling the girl after her husband and Monica's father were out of the way.

Most of the characters are either in jail or dead by the end of the story, and Twinkletoes commits suicide, her sole reasons for living having been destroyed. The betrayer ends lonely and on the bottle.

The importance of the book lies in its tragedy. It is a very human and humane, a trifle exaggerated in both good and evil for artistic excellence, but still nearly a masterpiece. I like this book, and must re-read it some day.

Burke, Thomas

The Wind and the Rain: A Book of Confessions; London,
Thronton Butterworth Limited (1924) 288p.
New York, George H. Doran Company (1924) 309p.
See Authors Today and Yesterday, pp.113-115.

This autobiographical novel is most important in understanding the background and limitations of the author, as well as his amazing success against fearful odds.

Brought up by his "Uncle Frank", he was taken by authority to a boarding school where he lived at first dismayed by regimentation, then later appreciative of the care and training which qualified him and provided a home. He mentions the perils of environment, the escapades of others which he was too shy and passive to share to any extent; how Cosgrove helped him; how he admired Fosdick; the death of his Uncle; his Uncle's musician friend Creegan disposing of the Uncle's effects and holding the four guineas in trust for him. On leaving school at the orphanage, he worked as busboy in a hotel, not realizing that it was a house of assignation until he met Creegan, who insisted that he abandon his job and take an office boy's job. He still looked back on Mylchreest and Lil as friends who had given him kindness and freedom so long as his work was done, and despised the starved routine life of the colliery office where he worked hopelessly, since the clerks would not encourage him to progress.

Finding a copy of T.P.'s Weekly on a counter stool, he was attracted to literature, attended the public library, and bought the weekly with money saved by doing without food. He read books by classic authors, discarded many, understood others only in part, purchased a small collection of cheap books and read and re-read them. He learned to appreciate opera and good music.

After losing his job by flouting authority, he was starving when he again met Cosgrove, a music-hall comedian now, earning 12 pounds a week, who got him a job as ticket-seller and writer at 3 pounds a week, provided him with a room and clothing, companionship with his friends, and gave him leisure for writing.

His idyllic love at 20 for Gracie, a 14-year old, is the best chapter in this book, but she disappeared with her step-mother and he never saw her again.

Again meeting Cicely, an aristocratic girl who had liked him when he played with her as a child when his Uncle worked as gardener for her aunt, he realized that she was not of his world, but loved her; but she could not make up her mind to accept him and kept him dangling until their final parting. Quong Lee, who had given him ginger pieces and peace and a sort of home in addition to a sense of infinity, is arrested for opium peddling and deported, but Burke feels he owes all his accomplishments to Quong and his kindness to an orphan waif, and determines to immortalize Quong with his work.

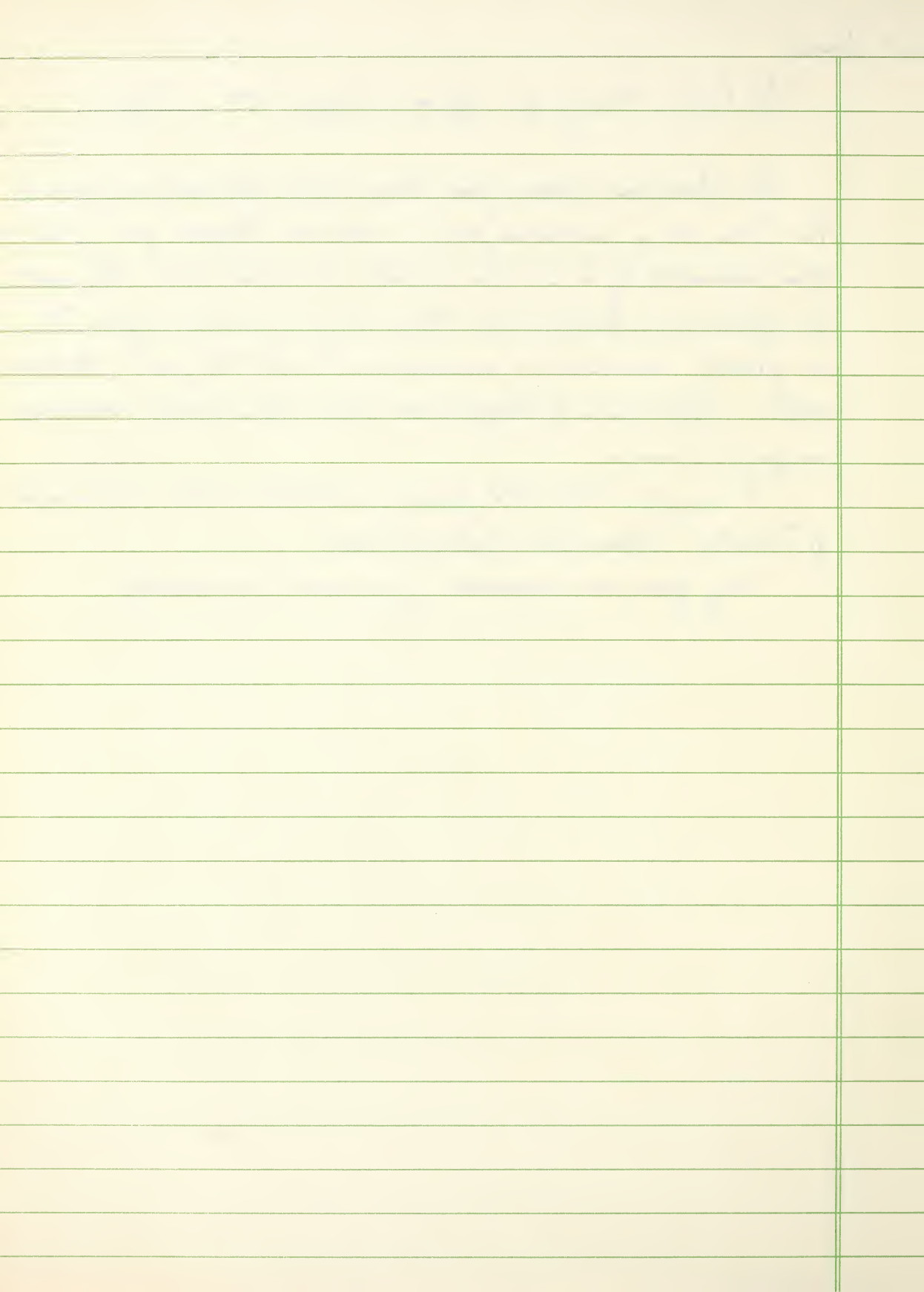
met, Dana

"The Pool", New York, Alfred A Knopf, 1945. 54 pp.

An American soldier from Maine whose fondest memory of his home is a secluded pool, meets an English girl who is also enthralled by a similar locale near her home. She and her father are killed when their church is damaged. He is fatally wounded and envisions her at the pool. He dies with an appearance of happiness which the doctor mentions is quite common.

A simple well-told fantasy with the theme reminiscent of Meredith's "Three Lines of Old French".

Very good as indication of personal immortality.



Burnett, Hugh

Adam and Eve; London, Merlin Press (1963, Burnett); unpaginated.

This is a cartoon book, captioned, which portrays situations in and after the Garden of Eden in fairly humorous ways. It is of no importance.

Burroughs, Edgar Rice

Beyond Thirty and The Man-Eater; South Ozone Park 20,
New York, Science-Fiction & Fantasy Publications, 1957; 229p.

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The "Prologue" is actually "Edgar Rice Burroughs: A Bit of His Life" by Bradford M. Day.

"Beyond Thirty" has been reprinted by Ace Books as "The Lost Continent", so I did not read it from this book.

"The Man-Eater" is the story of a missionary who leaves some preferred stock to take care of his wife and daughter, but sends his will and marriage certificate ~~to his son-in-law's father~~ to his son-in-law's father by mistake. This is secreted, and because it cannot be found, a crooked claimant to the estate tries to deprive the daughter of her estate. In search of the wedding certificate, the hero goes to Africa; his life is spared by a lion; he in turn spares the lion; gets the shares certificates, foils the villains, and marries the girl. The lion, transported to America, kills the villain, and is saved by the hero.

This story is just about as corny as any written by Burroughs, and it would detract from his reputation if it were published in pocket book form.

Burroughs, William

• Dead Fingers Talk; London, Tandem Books (#5004), (1970),
(1963, Burroughs) 224p.

The blurb indicates that this is a novel constructed by the author out of ~~this~~ earlier writings; and it seems to me to be a chaotic melange of material. I am totally unable to summarize the book, because I could find no coherence, plan, or significance in the whole.

There are some passages which are apparently referring to life on other planets, and a few indications of fantasy or science fictional content. These are sufficient to place the book in a fantasy collection, but not importantly so.

Many passages refer to drug addition, and these may convey information to addicts or to doctors, but Burroughs has written more clearly about this in an introduction to another of his books.

Possibly critical interpretation would assist me to understand this book, but would it be worthwhile?

Burroughs, William (Originally published under William Lee)

Junkie; New York, Ace Books (#K-202), (1953, Publisher)
Foreword by Carl Solomon 126p.

The publisher's note indicates that this book should be compared with De Quincey. The difference is mainly that De Quincey wrote in the vein of dream phantasy, whereas this is objective realism.

Burroughs had an income of \$150. a month from a trust fund established by his family, so was never destitute; but was usually hard-pressed for money because of his dissolute life-style. Having read two of his novels, I am favorably impressed by this book, which is clearly written, explicit, and devoid of moral considerations. Burroughs accepts the hazards of illicit drug use in spite of the laws curtailing freedom. His descriptions of the joys of drug use and the horrors of withdrawal, which he equates as inevitable, give what seems to me to be an accurate portrayal of addiction.

He apparently lived common law with a woman who tried to influence him away from drugs, but whom he treated badly. He describes homosexual experience sufficiently to suggest bisexuality, but confirms that in certain stages of drug use or withdrawal, neither sex nor any other interest is great enough to arouse interest or activity.

This is an important book for its unflinching portrayal of the addicts, their aimless life, and their hopeless fight for survival.

Junky; With an Introduction by Allen Ginsberg; Harmondsworth, Middlesex, Penguin Books (#4351), (1977, Burroughs)
158p.

(Note: Published as fiction)

Burroughs, William S.

Naked Lunch; New York, Grove Press, Inc. (1959, 7th
Printing) 255p.

A drug addict for fifteen years, the author in this book provides an introduction describing his illness, and an appendix explaining the effect of the various modes of treatment he underwent to effect a cure. Morphine creates a metabolic imbalance, which he feels can be cured only by use of apomorphine. Morphine will cure alcoholism by replacing the addiction, but if morphinism is cured, the patient can again become alcoholic.

The body of the book is made up of surrealist sketches of hallucinations, pushers, buyers, police, and other characters, some fictionized. There is much preoccupation with homosexuality as in his other book which I have read "The Ticket that Exploded". One part of the book posits the making of responsive friends by cutting off bits of flesh and growing identical replicas of themselves in embryo jelly (I wonder if this idea was obtained from the story reprinted in Suvin's anthology).

Burroughs describes addiction as a way of life, saying that nothing exists for the addict apart from supplying his need for the drug. The addict lives like a vegetable otherwise. Get rid of the addict, he says, and you stop the drug traffic; he praises the British system of quarantine.

There is nothing likable about this book, but it should convey a warning to anyone contemplating the use of drugs. The impossibility of living a normal life is graphically illustrated.

Burroughs, William S.

The Ticket That Exploded; New York, Grove Press, Inc.,
(1962, 1964, 1966, 1967, Burroughs) 217p.

I am not sure whether Burroughs intended this "novel" to illustrate his thesis that we are conditioned to accept the world we perceive, and that there is no real division between illusion and reality. What he suggests is that we can test our perceptions by experiments with tape-recorders; that we can become merged with other personalities by studying the sounds they record, or can exchange our personalities for theirs. Sub-oral sounds, he says, constitute thought; un~~ver~~balized is merely instinctive or unconscious activity. He goes further by saying that recordings can be played back in various ways so that the original sense is lost, but that an apparently senseless jumble will ultimately convey meaning.

A series of tape-recorders can be manipulated so that each will apparently carry on a conversation with the others making as much sense (or as little) as conversations between living humans; and that there is no reason to deny these representations of personalities an actuality. He suggests that viruses may be invading aliens which control us by conditioning us as hosts.

His "novel" uses music, street sounds, conversations, life experiences, visions, even imaginative projections, as entities already programmed to control our reactions, and gives them power. The style in which he writes is chaotic, excepting when he explains the theories it is intended to demonstrate; if this is "stream of consciousness" writing, it is meaningful, not because it expresses anything, but because it suggests that there may have been a meaning which has become scrambled.

My own interpretation of what he has written is that he is obsessed by homosexuality, and seeks to excuse the obsession on the ground that (1) he is programmed to exclude other visual and tactual significances, or (2) that invading aliens in the form of viruses use him to express their own sexuality, or (3) that the communications of mankind as a whole have made it impossible to overcome the conditioning, except by conscious experiment which involves the destruction of one personality by conditioning it to become another.

If my interpretation differs from that of anyone else, Burroughs would simply say that my conditioning was against any other interpretation, or merely that his message to others could be different because of their differing conditioning.

Only isolated passages in this book convey any clear meaning to me, and those are the expository sections. I have no patience for this method of telling a "story".

Burton, Jean

Heyday of a Wizard: Daniel Home, the Medium; New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1944; Frontispiece; Bibliography; Index; 275 plus vi p.

This is a well-researched and objectively presented biography of Home. It makes no attempt at explanation of his phenomena, but incorporates adequate sample descriptions by contemporary witnesses, and is very useful in providing the full names of people previously identified only by initials.

The JSPP (V.34, #647, p.250-251) provides a review by K.M.G. which mentions that a few minor errors are corrected in the English edition, published by Harrap in 1948; but also draws attention to an error in the date of birth of the daughter to Home's second wife, it having been given as the April of the year following the marriage, whereas it should have been the Fall of that year.

I agree with the review appraisal of this book, which should be retained permanently for reference.

Note: "K.M.G." is apparently in error. Home met his first wife in Rome in March, 1858; they were married "on Sunday the 1st of August, 1858, or according to the old style, on the 20th of July" (Incidents, American edition, page 181; English 2nd edition, page 128). Their son was born in St. Petersburg, 26th April, old style, or 8th May, according to our style, 1859 (American, p.184; English 2nd, page 131).

I made this note without having re-read my note above; it is my error.

Burton, Maurice

Introducing Life Under the Sea; London, Spring Books
(1961), (Books for Pleasure Ltd.); unpaginated by plates 101

Primarily a picture book, the text merely describes the various forms of sea life illustrated. Although in black and white, the photographs are extremely good, and obtained from various sources to which credit is given at the back of the book.

This is a good basic book on its subject, and I will give it to Lia and Timmy today (April 15, 1979).

Burton, Miles

Devil's Reckoning; London, Collins for The Crime Club
(no date), (#264c) 192p.
Toronto, Collins (1949), (#CD 415) 192p.

Although told leisurely and in too great detail, this is a well-plotted murder mystery, complicated and improbable, involving a woman who trapped a vicar into marrying her to give her unborn child a name, leaving him to go to Canada and live with a wealthy man who had lost a son in the war, and, the woman then learning that her husband had inherited title and a fortune, determined to return to him and her son.

The wealthy man, using his son's acquaintance with the neighborhood as an excuse for his presence and inquiries, anticipates his mistress's arrival, murders her, and by following a legend, murders the innkeeper and his wife also, thrusting on them and the legend the suspicion of complicity in the deaths.

A murder mystery involving borderline fantasy in its reliance on a legend involving devil worship and witchcraft, this is rationalized. I would place it among the better plotted mysteries, but of no importance once the plot is unravelled.

"The Secret of High Eldersham"

Published for The Crime Club Ltd. by W. Collins Sons & Co. Ltd.

London, (1930) 249 p.p.

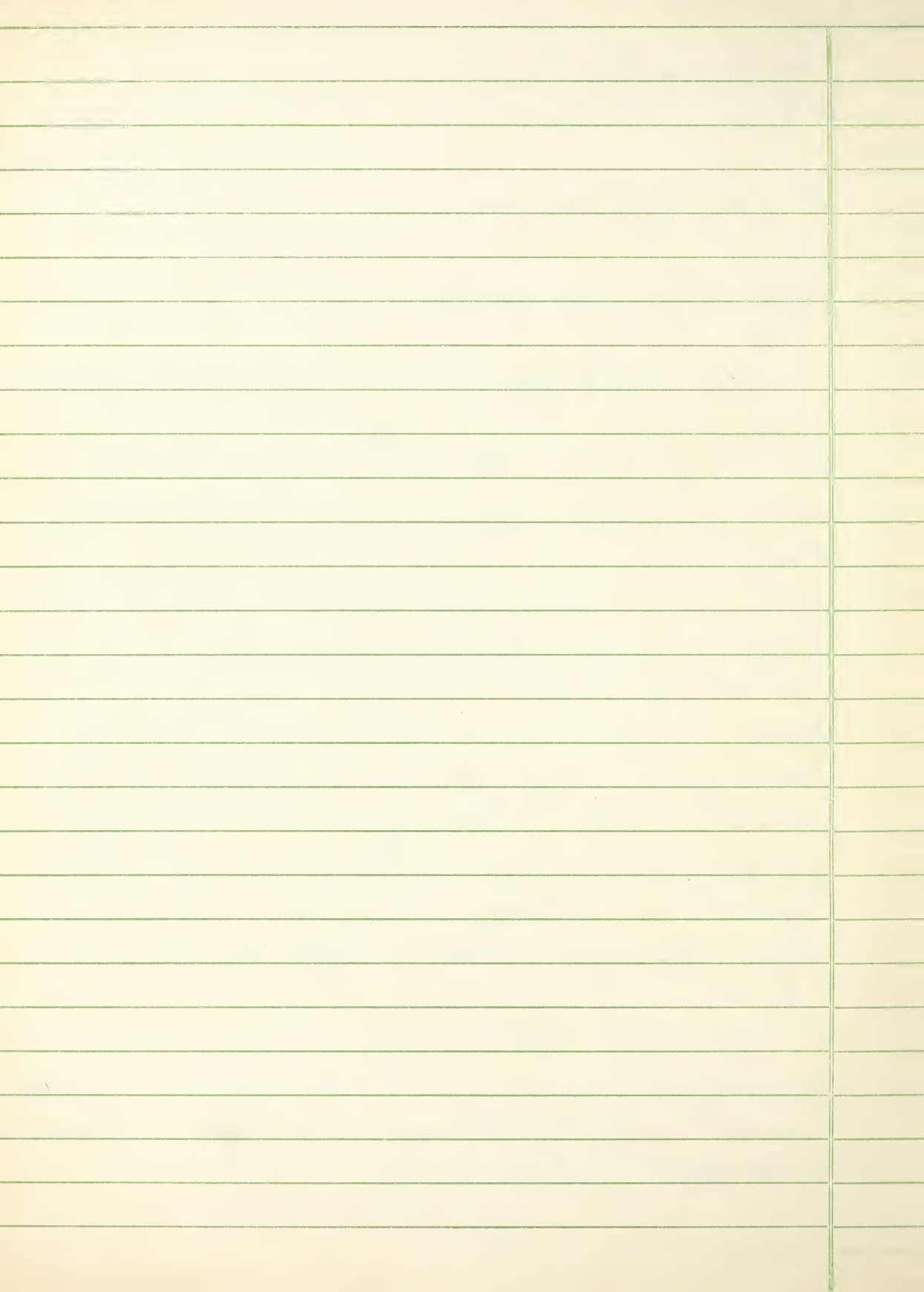
The Mystery League, Inc., Publishers

New York, 1931 275 p.p.

English Edition blank facing title page:

This is the story

Constable Viney of High Eldersham in East Anglia was cycling home on the last night of March. He stopped at the Rose and Crown inn for a chat with Whitehead, the landlord, and found the latter a blood-soaked corpse. Detective Inspector Young was sent from Scotland Yard to help the local police. He soon realized the queerness of East Anglian folk in general and those of High Eldersham in particular. It was Viney who told him "Strangers don't never prosper in High Eldersham" and Whitehead had been a "stranger". Desmond Merriam, a rich bachelor, comes to be Young's unofficial assistant. In the cottage of Mrs Portch he finds - a mummie! And this tells him that High Eldersham is a place of hateful mysteries. The gentry and peasantry of the place are all involved. Sir William and Mavis Overton, Doctor Radfield, Lawrence Hollisby - what parts can these possibly have played in the murder of a publican? People who read of the old witch-trials would be horrified to come upon the witch-cult persisting in modern England. But there are queer survivals of ancient rites in rural England, and there is not a little foundation in fact for the sinister secret of High Eldersham which Merriam tracked down to the altar on the island.



Burton, Sir Richard

The Erotic Traveller; Edited by Edward Leigh; Illustrated; Toronto, Swan Publishing Co. Ltd. (1967), (1966, London, The Ortolan Press) 164p.

This volume concentrates on the anthropological, and particularly the sexual aspects of Burton's travel books, excerpting from these and from his notes to his edition of The Arabian Nights most of those comments illustrating his interests in these matters.

In view of Ian Gray's recently expressed interest in the Amazons of antiquity and mythology, I think he would be glad to have this book drawn to his attention, and will try to remember to mention it to Chris Rutkowski next time I see him.

Although one may infer that Burton's interest in sex was practical and active, as well as intellectual, and led to problems in his social and personal life, there is no doubt that a spirit of scientific inquiry accompanied his investigations. He wrote independently of authority, but did not hesitate to give credit for observations of others who had preceded him. I am favorably impressed.

Burton, Sir Richard

The Perfumed Garden of the Shaykh Nefzawi; New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons (1964), (1963, Neville Spearman Ltd.) 256p.
(Subtitle): A Manual of Arabian Erotology; New York, Lancer Books (#75-002); Introduction by Franklin S. Klaf, M. D. (Lancer Books, Inc., 1964) 192p.

The first noted volume is preferable. It has been edited with an introduction by Alan Hull Walton, and appears to be superior to the Lancer edition. I read the first part of the book from the Lancer edition, then the rest from the Putnam edition.

Actually, this book has been superseded by modern manuals like The Joy of Sex, and is of interest mainly in providing the Arabian view of sex as all-important to the woman. The notes in both volumes are important as cautioning the uneducated reader against many of the potions and remedies recommended, and the practices advocated.

By comparison with some modern material, this book appears antiquated and quaint.

Burt, George W.

The Barter Way to Beat Inflation; New York, Everett House; (1980, author) 215p.

A careful reading of this book convinces me that I am not a sufficiently experienced businessman to cope successfully with other members of a Barter Club.

It strikes me that an unscrupulous individual would be at an advantage over others in such a Club, just as in the money-oriented business world of ordinary commerce.

There are some excellent ideas in this volume. It is practical for any enterprising person to make use of these ideas, whether in a Club or not.

The basic idea is to trade rather than pay cash for one's needs. This can be arranged with members of the Club who use money only for expenses in most cases, and trade club credits for the balance.

I think there is an undue emphasis on the value of money, but perhaps the reality under our profit system supports this view rather than my own.

There are clubs in Ottawa and Toronto. I should keep in mind, also, the situation in Courtenay, B. C. which has been detailed in programs on the CBC Journal.

Busch, Francis X.

Casebook of the Curious and True; Indianapolis/New York,
The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc.; (1957, Publishers) 228p.

1. How Streeter built land around his boat and fought the Chicago authorities for control of it, despite his dubious title. 2. An illegitimate boy is guarded by the doctor who supervised his birth. 3. A cathedral is robbed of paintings which are later recovered under mysterious circumstances. 4. An unusual divorce case, with both parties apparently guilty of maneuvering for their personal advantage. 5. An unsolved death of Marie Huntsman (aliases Davis and Edith Wallace) who apparently conspired with August M. Unger to defraud insurance companies, but was likely murdered by him (poisoned). 6. A Clarence Darrow case involving the narration of two others and Gaboriau's novel about a name of honor. 7. A great train robbery and its aftermath. 8. Wealth of McClintock leading to murder by typhoid and poisoning of several potential heirs. Is the possession of wealth alone sufficient to inspire envious people with the desire to murder? Did McClintock's wife kill her first husband, then him, and did Shepherd kill young Billy McClintock after years of bringing him up to maturity? The possibilities of this case, involving interesting spiritualist influences, are fascinating and dreadful.

In two of these cases, the author worked with Darrow, and says he admired and loved him.

Several of these cases might have been used by Bolitho in his Murder for Profit.

Bush, Christopher

The Case of the Happy Medium; New York, The Macmillan Company, 1952 (1952, author) 223p.

I seldom read murder mysteries, but am always interested in stories about spiritualistic mediums, so I purchased this book.

I try to decide whether the author believes or is sceptical about phenomena, but this novel is fairly noncommittal since the medium actually plays a small part among societies and individuals who comprise the main part of the story.

Told in the first person by Ludovic Travers, a private detective often consulted and employed by Scotland Yard, this story is complicated and surprising in its portrayal of spiritualistic and criminal activities. Two murders, one apparently a suicide, form the basis of the investigation.

Since I found the story very interesting and well plotted, I will not outline it in these notes. It is not classifiable as fantasy.

Chester D. Cuthbert
June 11, 1999



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Bush, David V.

The Influence of Suggestion: Autosuggestion; St. Louis,
Missouri, (no date 40p.

My only reason for reading this book is that H. P. Lovecraft ghost wrote for Bush. I could find nothing to indicate that he wrote this.

This book has little or nothing to do with the scientific use of hypnotism or suggestion. It is an inspirational book advocating the visualizing of goals and an optimistic outlook.

Most of the later part of the book is composed of ads for the sale of other books by the author.

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Butts, Mary

Scenes from the Life of Cleopatra; London, Toronto,
William Heinemann Ltd 286p.

In an appendix to this novel, the authoress affirms her belief that Cleopatra was sexually intimate only with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, saying there is no historical evidence to the contrary despite all calumny. She portrays the young Queen as an intelligent girl, aware of her responsibilities and discharging them in the only way available to her, admiring and loving both men.

The book ends with the Queen pregnant with Antony's child, but says there were two later children. She bore only Caesarion to Julius. She was forced to flee from Rome when Caesar was assassinated; she would likely have been killed without his protection as the Romans did not like her. She was of a superior culture.

Much of the story is told in the form of soliloquys by various characters, and in letters. I am impressed with the historical knowledge and sophistication of the authoress, and although her style could have been improved, she does manage to convey the story clearly.

There is little action or dialogue and the book is not intended for light reading. Possibly it should be retained for reference if much reading of the period were contemplated.

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These are distinguished short stories, some with the sentimental charm of Byrne.

(4) The wife of an architect sacrifices herself to maintain the existence of a bridge against the fury of the elements; (6) a family has occult power over foxes; (9) the animals talk revolt against man; (13) a middle-aged man seeks to marry the daughter of an inventor whom he has defrauded, but is found dead during a seance. This repeats a theme used in (11), where a Chinese protects a girl by giving a similar character leprosy causing him to suicide.

It would be interesting to compare (10) with Salten's Samson and Delilah. (5) says that Dame Alice Kyteler was an evil woman comparable with Gilles de Rais. (1) a policeman falls in love with a murderess on a desert isle and is sentenced to marriage with her when he brings her to justice.

There is an Irish flavor to most of these stories.

